

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A network management system for creating and implementing a service on a network, said network management system comprising:
 - means for acquiring policy rules comprising service rules which create the service and implementation rules which implement the service~~for configuring said service~~;
 - means for determining commands corresponding to said policy rules;
 - means for transmitting the determined commands to network elements of the network;
 - and
 - means for inferring said policy rules to determine said commands,
 - ~~wherein said policy rules comprise services rules, which create a service in the network and implementation rules,~~
 - wherein said implementation rules for ~~creating said~~ implementing the service comprise technology rules and equipment rules,
 - wherein the inferring means correlates the service rules with the technology rules,~~and~~
 - wherein the technology rules ~~model expert know-how and specify how to determine~~ technology to use in the implementation of the service being created based on stored based on

attributes of ~~equipment in the network and stored attributes of the service~~ and equipment in the network, and

wherein the service is defined by the service rules independently of the technology and specification of the network equipment .

2. (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein said inference means comprises an inference engine provided in the network management system and external to the network comprising the network elements.

3-4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the service rules are provided externally from the network management system and wherein the service rules specify conditions and timing for creating the service.

6. (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the technology rules specify which protocol to use for the service based on the attributes of the equipment in the network and wherein the equipment rules model how to select the technology rules based on the attributes of the equipment.

7. (currently amended): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the service is designed by a developer ~~created via the service rules~~ independently from specifications of equipment and technology specified in the implementation rules and wherein the implementation rules are dynamically implemented after the determining means determines applicable implementation rules.

8. (currently amended): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the service is ~~created via the service rules~~ designed by an operator without requiring specific knowledge of equipment and technology of the network for the service.

9. (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the implementation rules specify implementation specific details of the service.

10. (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the implementation rules specify attributes of the service.

11. (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the service is a virtual private network.

12. (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the technology to be used is determined based on a number of sites involved in a particular network.

13. (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the equipment rules are used to model how the rules must be selected for a particular equipment type.

14. (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the particular equipment type is selected based on their capacity.

15. (new): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the service provides video conferences.

16. (new): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the technology is IPsec protocol.

17. (new): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the technology is multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) tunnels.

18. (new): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the equipment is a router.

19. (new): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the network comprises IP routers.

20. (new): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the network comprises asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switches.